

There is a plant here called *surucucu*, which is evidently a species of *Pereskia*. It has tough, hard spines, very slender and up to two inches in length, profusely produced all along the branches, making it very effective as a hedge plant, and this is its usual use around Bahia. Dr. Franceschi, however, told me that someone with whom he was acquainted has conceived the idea of using these spines for phonograph needles, and I believe the theory was that they produced a much softer and finer sound than any manufactured needle. Just as soon as we can get to it we are going to collect enough of these spines to allow of experiments to find out just how valuable they are for this purpose; if the scheme should prove feasible, it would be an easy matter to introduce the plant to Florida and produce the spines on a commercial scale, for the plants are extremely productive, there being a cluster of three to twelve spines at each leaf base, and the leaves are not more than an inch apart.

The Grumixama, *Stenocalyx brasiliensis*, impresses me as one of the best myrtaceous fruits I have ever eaten. The fruits came as near to being a European cherry of the Bigarreau type as anything I have seen; they are about the size of a cherry, with a stem an inch and a half long, and are deep crimson in color. The skin is thin and delicate; the seeds, one or two in number, are the size of small cherry stones and do not adhere to the flesh; the flesh itself is soft and tender, of very mild and agreeable flavor, and entirely free from any disagreeable character. This seems to be a very promising thing for Florida, as the trees are very productive, and are worthy of cultivation anywhere as ornamentals alone.

The Inspectoria de Obras Contra as Seccas maintains a Horto Florestal at Joazeiro, and Dr. Lisboa will give us letters to the director if we go there. We understand they are growing some interesting things. The date palm is considered *most promising* for the arid interior of Bahia state, and we have promised to assist the Department of Agriculture in obtaining offshoots of the best Arabian and Algerian varieties. From the fact that the date palm grows in that region, you can easily see that it must be very similar to our own arid Southwest, and it seems to us that it would be a very promising field for exploration. Of course, there is not a great variety of either wild or cultivated plants, but any that are found ought to stand a good chance of proving successful in some part of our country."